

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

In the specification, the Title has been amended on page 1.

Claims 2, 4-6, and 10-11 are requested to be cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 7, 12, 17, and 19 are currently being amended. Claims 20-21 are being added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 7-9, and 12-21 are submitted for reconsideration. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-9 and 12-19. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to correspond to original claim 5 in independent form, claim 3 has been amended to correspond to original claim 6 in independent form, and claims 7, 12, 17, and 19 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1, 3, 7-9, and 12-19 are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, a new title was required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the title as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-4 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,908). This rejection is moot in view of the claims amendment discussed above.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment,

to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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